

upon the Conference of 1908 and 1909) had undertaken that it would not ratify—and thus render binding as a matter of treaty-obligation—the submitted Declaration until Parliament had amply discussed its provisions. Concurrently with the presentation of the Declaration to Parliament, a Naval Prize Bill was also proposed (as a section of the general scheme recommended), and as this Bill was rejected by the House of Lords in December 1911—since it was felt there that its passage would have resulted in the ratification of the Declaration—a legislative acceptance of the main document never then occurred.]

One month subsequent to the adoption by Government of the Declaration as already mentioned (*i. e.* subsequent to the 20th of August 1914), a proclamation was issued containing additions to the schedule of contraband articles furnished in the document itself, and among these additions were various descriptions of iron ore. It is obvious, on ordinary business grounds, and not as the result of actual experience of the working of the Declaration, that in our first announcement of adoption we should have made provision for any later modifications by inserting a clause in the Proclamation of Adoption that the official acceptance of the Declaration was subject to any subsequent amendments which might be found to be necessary in our national interests. This precaution, unfortunately, did not occur to the officials who prepared the proclamation and apparently revealed grave negligence in our Foreign Office. Indeed, in the original framing of the Declaration itself, the possibility of Great Britain ever becoming a belligerent (involving the essential question of our importation of food) seems disastrously to have been overlooked. It appears to have been only upon the 21st of September 1914, that the Foreign Office perceived the importance of copper, lead, rubber and iron ore to the enemy and transferred them and other articles from the free list to the conditional contraband schedule. Two subsequent Proclamations were published with emendations of the Declaration: one revising the original

catalogue of absolute and conditional
contraband; the other introducing
additional modifications of its contents.
The altered lists of contraband were—